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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Application Serial No.: 10/717,379
Amendment and Response dated January 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2005

In the Claims:

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Please amend claims as specified below. The status and text of all claims follows:

1. (Twice amended) A bone tap for introducing fluid bone filler into a bone vertebra, comprising:
a body, ~~the body configured to be driven through a pedicle attached to the vertebra;~~
a passage through at least a portion of the body;
threading located near an end of the body; and
one or more openings through the threading in communication with the passage, the one or more openings configured to introduce fluid bone filler into the vertebra bone.
2. (Twice amended) The bone tap of claim 1, wherein the passage and at least one of the openings is configured to allow delivery of fluid to the vertebra bone during use.
3. (Original) The bone tap of claim 1, further comprising at least one flute formed in the threading adjacent to one of the openings.
4. (Original) The bone tap of claim 1, wherein the threading is configured to inhibit backflow of fluid along the body.
5. (Original) The bone tap of claim 1, further comprising a fluid port configured to form a seal with a fluid delivery system configured to introduce fluid into the passage.
6. (Twice amended) The bone tap of claim 1, further comprising a tool portion configured to couple to a driver that facilitates insertion of the body into vertebra bone.
7. (Original) The bone tap of claim 1, wherein the passage extends from a proximal end of the tap to a distal end of the tap.

8. (Original) The bone tap of claim 1, wherein the one or more openings comprises a plurality of fenestrations, wherein three or more fenestrations are spaced at substantially regular intervals along the threading.

9. (Previously amended) A system for forming a threaded hole in a bone, comprising:

- a tap comprising a passage and one or more openings;
- a driver configured to be coupled to the tap; and
- at least one dilator configured to provide access to the bone.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the passage and at least one of the openings are adapted to allow delivery of bone cement to the bone during use.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the driver comprises a resilient member adapted to inhibit unintentional separation of the driver from the tap.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the resilient member is a spring tab.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the tap further comprises a fluid port.

14. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a fluid delivery system.

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. Cancelled

18. Cancelled

19. Cancelled

20. Cancelled

Please add the following claims:

21. (New) The bone tap of claim 1, wherein the bone filler is a bone adhesive.

22. (New) The bone tap of claim 1, wherein the end of the body is blunt.
23. (New) A method of introducing a fluid into a bone, comprising:
advancing a bone tap into the bone, the bone tap comprising a passage, one or more openings communicating with the passage, and threading located near an end of the body;
introducing a fluid to the bone through at least one of the openings; and
allowing the fluid to spread to a portion of the bone.
24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the fluid comprises bone cement.
25. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the fluid comprises a bone filler and a medicament.
26. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein advancing the bone tap into the bone comprises attaching a driver to the bone tap, placing the bone tap at an initial opening formed in the bone, and rotating the bone tap to thread the bone tap into the bone.
27. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein introducing fluid to the bone comprises coupling a fluid delivery system to the bone tap, and activating the fluid delivery system to move fluid through the bone tap and into the bone.
28. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising coupling a driver to the bone tap, and using the driver to remove the bone tap from the bone.
29. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising introducing a bone fastener into an opening formed by the bone tap.